

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled).
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein calcium hydroxide accounts for 20 to 70% by weight of the exhaust gas treatment agent.
3. (canceled).
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the exhaust gas treatment agent has a void fraction of 10 to 50% by volume.
5. (currently amended) An exhaust gas treatment method comprising contacting an exhaust gas treatment agent provided with a particulate and porous structure, comprising calcium hydroxide occupying at least a portion of the surface thereof, and calcium oxide occupying the remainder with exhaust gas containing a hydride and/or halide of an element belonging to group IIIa, group IVa or group Va of the periodic table in a gaseous state, wherein  
the specific surface area of the exhaust gas treatment agent is  $1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  or more;  
the primary grains of the exhaust gas treatment agent have a continuous columnar structure, and  
the exhaust gas treatment agent is obtained by baking a particulate calcium carbonate.
6. (canceled).
7. (canceled).